(b) if so, what is the maximum container loads proposed; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to extend container technology to all the ports or to expond it only at the existing container ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) At present there is no Inland Container Depot functioning at Gauhati. It has been decided to set up an ICD at Amingaon (near Gauhati) and this work has been included in the Railway Budget (1984-85). Action has been initiated for providing the necessary infrastructure facilities in a phased manner.

(b) Railway are planning to provide facilities for transporting ISO containers in train-loads. This will however depend upon the quantum of traffic actually offered by trade.

(c) Container handling facilities at present are provided at Bombay, Madras, Cochin and Haldia. Provision of the facilities at Calcutta is planned.

Abolition of Luxury Tax, Etc. by States

1456. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Tourism has proposed to the States to sacrifice a share of their present revenue in the form of luxury tax, building tax, bar licence fee, etc.;

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government have proposed that the hotels be declared as an industry; and if so, what is the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) In the interest of promotion of tourism, the Government of Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have been requested to consider the possibility of abolishing the taxes levied in these States on the earnings of hotels. Similarly the Government of Kerala have been requested to consider reducing Bar Licence fees and Building Taxes on hotels;

(b) Only the Government of Jammu & Kashmir have abolished the tax levied on the earnings of hotels. Government of Gujarat and the Government of Tamil Nadu have not found it possible to accede to this request. Other State Governments have not yet responded. The Government of Kerala have promised to consider the possibility of reducing the Bar Licence Fee. About reduction of Building Tax on hotels, there has been no response ;

(c) Yes, Sir. Only the Government of Orissa and the Government of out Bengal have so far declared hotels as industry.

Smuggling Activities at Sahar Airport Bombay

1457. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports regarding smuggling activities at Bombay's International Airport at Sahar, involving foreign nationals, Indian contacts and the conniving ground staff;

(b) whether it has also come to the notice of Government that the policeman posted there are also in league with the anti-social elements; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Persons found involved in smuggling activities are strictly dealt with under the provisions of the law, irrespective of whether they are Indian nationals or foreign nationals. There have been a number of cases in which foreign nationals, Indian nationals and airlines staff have been found involved in smuggling activites at the